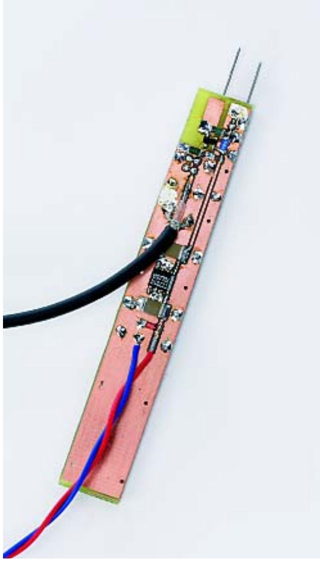
front panel connector which provides signal and probe power. Tektronix have discontinued making a bench supply to use their probes stand alone. Sigh!

Imagine my amusement then, in finding David Jewsbury's article last Saturday ('Poor Man's 1-GHz Probe', October 2004, *Ed.*), while perusing the few electronics mags in WHSmith's.

I was just beginning to think of reaching for my soldering iron to grow my own low cap probe. I will build his circuit with a follower second stage as I don't need the bandwidth but just the low input capacitance.

All the best with your excellent magazine.

Alan Bate



Thanks Alan for this example of how a complex problem is tackled in your work environment. Here's proof that the subtitle with our article: 'DIY saves a pretty penny' was spot on.

Happy Birthday

Dear Sirs — I have been reading Elektor from the start and have found your magazine to be a wonderful font of knowledge. I am sure I am not alone in wanting to thank you, for helping me over the years with design ideas etc. I have every edition from about 1980 onwards (squirrels in the loft destroyed my earlier volumes). I wondered what joys you will be bringing us on your thirtieth birthday. Happy Birthday Elektor!

Mark Scotford (Spain)

Readers wishing to part with pre-1980 copies of Elektor magazine, or complete year volumes please contact the Editor for Mr. Scotford's contact details. As to the joys of this month, I sincerely hope they start on page 1!

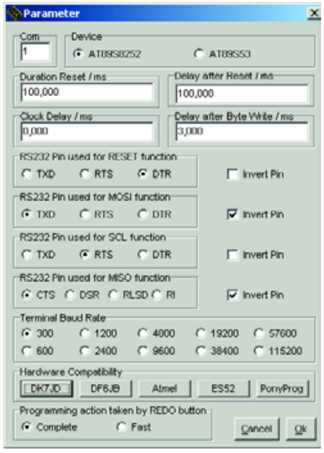
Flash Micro Board vs. fast PC

Dear Elektor staff — I have been using your 89S8252 Flash Micro Board (December 2001, *Ed.*) for about two years with great pleasure, having managed to link it to a couple of applications like A/D, D/A and system controls.

However since starting out with the project (in 2002) I've had recurring problems with the downloading of programs. After a few experiments it transpired that my 2.8-GHz PC did not work properly with the MicroFlash utility, whereas an old 433-MHz machine worked a treat. A few days ago I repeated the test with the same result: communication problems when downloading programs from the fast PC. Is a workaround available?

Bram Vooys (Netherlands)

We were surprised to read of your problems considering that thousands of Flash Micro Boards have been sold since December 2001. There is a solution: use a utility called ATMELISP, you can find it at, among others, www.modul-bus.de/mbnews/mbnews02/isp.htm. Open the 'parameter' menu in the top left-hand corner of the screen; next select the COM port and then DK7JD.



Parameter

Com: 1

Device: ● AT89S8252 ○ AT89S53

Duration Reset / ms: 100,000

Delay after Reset / ms: 100,000

Clock Delay / ms: 0,000

Delay after Byte Write / ms: 3,000

RS232 Pin used for RESET function: ○ TXD ○ RTS ● DTR ☐ Invert Pin

RS232 Pin used for MOSI function: ● TXD ○ RTS ○ DTR ☑ Invert Pin

RS232 Pin used for SCL function: ○ TXD ● RTS ○ DTR ☐ Invert Pin

RS232 Pin used for MISO function: ● CTS ○ DSR ○ RLSD ○ RI ☑ Invert Pin

Terminal Baud Rate: ● 300 ○ 1200 ○ 4800 ○ 19200 ○ 57600 ○ 600 ○ 2400 ○ 9600 ○ 38400 ○ 115200

Hardware Compatibility: DK7JD DF6JB Atmel ES52 PonyProg

Programming action taken by REDO button: ● Complete ○ Fast

(Mr. Vooys has since advised us by email that this solution worked perfectly, Ed.)

[screendump 045080-62]

Lost & Found

Dear Editor — A short time ago, a friend brought to me a power supply which, he said, I had made for him some years ago. Frankly, I has no recollection of so doing but at is bore all the hallmarks of my mechanical handywork, I accepted that what he said was true.

He had connected the PSU the wrong way around to a battery. It no longer worked; would I repair it?

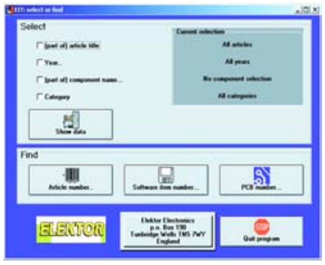
Clearly, it was an EE project. But when was it published? The only clue was the code mark on the PCB. I sent this to you and asked if the year of publication, at any rate, could be given.

Within days, a received a reply by email giving the year, date and page number. I looked up the article and have been able to repair the damage (blown track and a projection diode shorted).

Again, thank you for your excellent service. I continue to enjoy your magazine and like the new format.

Edward Benson, G3MUX

Credit is due to our Editorial Secretariat who traced the PCB number (980024-1) to the respective article ('Variable Power Supply', March 1998). Anyone can do this, however. Finding past articles by production number, PCB and/or software item number has been a standard feature of our EIT (Elektor Item Tracer) for over 10 years as well as of the search engine implemented in our year volume CD-ROMs as of 2003. Both products should prove extremely useful to owners of complete year volumes of our magazine. The EIT starts at 1985, the CD-ROM engine at 1996.



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